

Susan 529-8484
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■ We Must Understand : Credibility precludes compromise P-2

African-American News & Issues

Vol. 4 No. 39 Nov. 3-9, 1999

South Central U.S.A. Widest Circulated Black Newspaper

Free

By Bud Johnson
African-American News & Issues

Who is leading whom?

■ Arena referendum fallout endangers Black Houston's "Judas Goats"

"Who elected them as our leaders?" That question has been asked persistently in Houston/Texas/America, for many years, but it became a mantra for politically astute Black Houstonian who want to challenge the leadership, of "self anointed Black leaders pushing the Downtown Arena at the behest of Mayor Lee P. Brown."

It should've been obvious Les Alexander's deal was going to turn into an explosive issue from the offset, but, apparently, Houston's Black intelligentsia, either under estimated grassroots African-American resolve, or over estimated their ability to manipulate them. Whatever the case, the fallout—much like lingering radioactivity affecting populations long after a nuclear bomb explodes—will exacerbate an already fractious relationship between African American insiders (versus outsiders), to further divide and confuse a divided and confused Black community.

To further agitate, a very agitating situation, "Black leaders" (and we use that term loosely), became desperate enough to use the race card, after finding themselves under assault from an opposing group of Black leaders, who obviously felt they had just as much right to assume leadership—in spite of not being anointed by the "Good Old Boy's" status quo political network—

as those who have historically assumed (real, or imagined) leadership.

"I'll remember you," said a frustrated caller to KCOH radio's Person-to-Person talk show. "The arena is not a good deal for us and you know it." The caller, identified as a contractor (among several capable Black contractors left out of the process), openly challenged Houston Urban League's Sylvia Brooks and Darryl King along with long time political activist Howard Middleton, during the one-hour program that was reportedly paid for by Mayor Pro Tem Jew Don Boney.

Pro-arena minions not only explained their insider status, but assumed heroic roles, insofar as they alluded to sacrificing (jeopardizing) their personal relationship with Hous-

ton's mainstream politicians, "To make sure that we (African Americans) were included in the process." Ironically, "Black leader's" two-minute drill offensive (aimed at undecided Black voters), more likely will jeopardize increasingly tenuous relationships in Black Houston's fragmented political communities. Previously Mayor Brown and his Pro Tem (Boney) appeared on a "paid for" segment of Person-to-Person, during which no questions were allowed.

Is this the race card? Insiders warned Black Houston that anti-arena zealots were dedicated to muddying the political water, mainly to bog down Houston's first African American chief executive's administration, because "They just don't want to see



• Mayor Lee P. Brown



• Mayor Pro Tem, Jew Don Boney

an African-American succeed," or to be in charge during what could be city's greatest era.

Person-to-Person's entire three hours yielded to financial considerations (Oct. 28th), when State Rep. Garnett Coleman painstakingly explained how his bill (to build sports

venues), assured that wouldn't impact any other city projects. At least one Black leader considered Coleman's spiel a bunch of half truths and/or outright lies: "When he brought our youth into the (downtown stadium/arena/hotel) equation, I tuned him out," explained Roy Douglas Malonson,

speaking as CEO of Acres Home Citizens Chamber of Commerce.

Malonson, whose editorial opposing the arena appeared in *African American News & Issues* (Oct. 27-Nov. 1, 1999 edition), added: "Win, lose or draw, I'm personally going to hold the dishonest accountable and start naming and shaming them in print. And that includes Mayor Brown. We went the extra mile to get information to our people, when we sponsored a forum— with City Councilman Carroll Robinson on Oct. 20th— but they didn't show. In fact, we got negative feedback from some leaders, including Howard Jefferson. (See You Must Understand on Page 2).

Acres Home Chamber, ironically invited Jefferson to speak at its monthly luncheon on Nov. 4th at Greater Zion MBC. "If he doesn't show, citizens will certainly know why in our next edition," says Malonson, who also publishes AAN&I, which has become Texas' widest circulated newspaper with a Black perspective in less than five years. "We reach out and touch (theoretically) 2.5 million Black Texans and untold millions who love our web page

(www.blacknewsonline.com), therefore we have a responsibility to name and shame Black leaders who sell us out. Rev. Robert Gilmore, speaking for Real Urban Ministry Inc., is inclined to give Malonson's philosophy a hearty amen! Rev. Gilmore, who was busy campaigning for City Council became so disenchanted with Black leaders—who changed horses in the middle of the anti-arena stream— until he not only openly opposed them locally, but also dashed off letters to Kweisi Mfume; President & CEO of the NAACP and Hugh Price, President of the National Urban League. To wit: "I wrote both of you a letter on October 19th because local NAACP and Houston Area Urban League leaders have been involved in economic development deals that do not represent the greater good of the community. There are multi-billion dollar deals in construction of entertainment facilities, concessions, shipping and transportation at stake and there are no written documents that have been prescribed to the general public for review as relates to those done deals. The article I sent both of you reflects the problem that I have as a major concern as it relates to the true mission of the National Urban League and the National NAACP. Houston NAACP President Howard Jefferson needs to be removed as the current Houston President because of what appears to be a major conflict of interest. Former NAACP President Al Green needs to be asked to stay out of active NAA CP business in an official capacity because of business conflicts and political aspirations. Houston Area Urban League board member Darryl King needs to resign because of business conflicts and overstated HAUL responsibilities."

In the meantime, Rev. Dwayne Lark also rebutted Coleman's misinformation, during the remaining hour paid for by his Metropolitan Coalition of Organizations. Rev. Lark stopped just short of implying Mayor Brown sold the Black community out and, unlike the pro-arenaites, he opened his hour to callers, who vented their ire about the last minute tactics used to confuse the issue

At press time both, Rev. Gilmore and *African-American News & Issues* are awaiting a reply from both civil rights institutions, but—be well assured—which ever way the wind blows, it would behoove targeted Black leaders (alleged to be political Judas Goats), to best prepare themselves for a political storm in grassroots Black Houston that should answer the question, once and for all, WHO IS LEADING WHOM?

Black History 24/7/365



BEN ENWONU
(b-1921)

Ben Enwonwu, an Ibo, studied art at the Slade School of Art in London and, in 1948, became federal arts advisor in his home country, Nigeria. In 1950, his work was exhibited at various colleges in the United States as well as at the Zwemmer Gallery and the Royal Academy in London. Among his important commissions was a statue of Queen Elizabeth II and a portrait of the Right Honorable Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. Enwonwu was originally encouraged by Kenneth C. Murray, along with several other young African art students. His work was included in the exhibition arranged for the Nigerian independence celebration in October 1960. Enwonwu has been influential in inspiring others in Nigeria to pursue creative work.

• *Fulani Girl, 1947 by Ben Enwonwu (Oil on canvas)*

EDUCATIONAL CANDIDATE FORUM



• Houston Black American Democrats (HBAD) in partnership with African-American News&Issues, and Shape Community Center in Third Ward, hosted a City wide Candidates' forums at Shape Community Center and Julia C. Hester House to address pressing political issues with community members.

Pictured from left are; Roy Douglas Malonson, Co-host and publisher of African-American News&Issues; Moderators, Nina Hall, Nata Koerber, Willie Joe Thomas, Georgia Jenkin-Harris, Ernest McGowen Jr., Gabrielle Hadnot (president of HBAD), Jennifer Sanders, Yuroba Harris, DeLoyd

Parker (co-host and executive director of Shape Community Center), Jewell McGowen, Carl Davis, and Almeda Dent.

Highlights of the Southside Forum featured appearances by Mayor Lee Brown and Mayor Pro-tem Jew Don Boney. Brown outlined his position on the Port Bonds and discussed the Arena deal and its commitment to include minorities in 30 percent of all construction contracts.

A similar forum hosted at Julia C. Hester House at the Northside featured candidates in open dialogue with the community members over pressing issues.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Beaumont Suptd. bags Texas award

By Vivian Brooks Tizeno
African-American News & Issues

Dr. Carrol A. Thomas, Jr., Beaumont Independent School District Superintendent, is the 1999 winner for "Superintendent of the Year." He was named by the Texas Association of School Boards at the TASB/TASA Annual Convention in Houston October 9. Thomas was nominated by the Beaumont ISD School Board. Four other finalists for the award were Roderick Paige, Houston ISD; Carolyn G. Bukhair, Richardson ISD; Lloyd W. Graham, Tound-Top-Carmine ISD; and Michael F. Ouatrini, San Elzario ISD. The Superintendent of the Year Award is presented annually at the Convention to recognize exemplary superintendents who strive for excellence and achievement in educational

leadership.

Thomas received a \$4,000 award for professional development and a Superintendent of the Year ring from BALFOUR, program sponsor. Runners-up each received a \$1,000 stipend for professional development. This award program has honored outstanding Texas administrators since 1984. According to TASB, "Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication, to improving the equality of education in their school districts, commitment to public support and involvement in education, and their ability to build good employee relations among teachers and staff members. TASB is a voluntary, non-profit organization established 50-years ago to serve Texas school districts. It includes 1,046 school districts and county school boards, 45 junior colleges, 48 tax appraisal districts, 154 cooperatives, and 20 education

service centers. School Board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent have combined annual budget of 21 billion and employ more than 500,000. In December 1995, The BISD School Board elected Dr. Thomas as its new superintendent. For quite some time, the school board was in search of a superintendent. After a period of studying and seeking out several candidates, the two other candidates finalists withdrew and the BISD Board voted unanimously (7-1) to hire Thomas. The Board members believed in what Thomas said he could do. The contract offer for Thomas was a base salary of \$152,800 - \$15,000 more than the salary cap specified in the job posting. That package also included an annual \$8,400 car allowance, \$10,000

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• Dr. Carrol A. Thomas, Jr.

African-American News&Issues

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General Information

• **Circulation**
Regional VI Publication reaching African-American readers in South Central U.S.A. Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.
Additionally, African-American News & Issues on-line gets thousands of hits weekly and can be found on major search engines.

• **Disclaimer**
We will not knowingly print false or misleading ads, but cannot be held responsible for the content of paid advertisement.

• **The views and opinions of guest writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher, staff or board of the African-American News & Issues.**

• **Cost**
This issue is free. Additional copies are available at 50¢ per copy.

• **Say What?**
Put someone on the back or get it off your chest. This is your soapbox, forum, beauty or barbershop, so step on up and have your say.

Your Newspaper

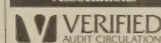
We are here to serve and we pledge to consistently report, investigate and deliver news and information important to you. If you have ideas for stories, questions, or comments or complaints contact us. Fax, call, mail, e-mail or visit our offices (by appointment). Communication is a two-way street and our doors and minds are open to the community we serve.

• **Our Perspectives**
We recognize the need and obligation of The African-American press to clearly and consciously and accurately communicate from positions that inform, educate, enlighten and defend our readers. Every week we offer our readership Business, Community, Church, and School news that see events from our perspective. And we're not afraid to "say it like our people need it said."

• **Published For Us... By Us**
Published weekly by Malonson Company, Inc. a 100% Black-owned, managed and controlled company. We are the largest, widest circulated, most read newspaper with a Black perspective in Texas... and we can prove it! Don't take our word for it. Our claims are verified by the most credible, independent audit reporting agency.

• **Our Goals**
Our goal is to manifest the highest level of professional excellence and integrity in everything we do. We owe it to ourselves and the communities we serve. We're standing on broad and highly qualified shoulders of the great tradition established by the African-American journalistic community that has come before us as we confidently set our sight on the 21st century and beyond.

Associations



- Independent Free Papers of America
- National Newspapers Publishers Association
- Texas Ass. of African-American Chambers of Commerce
- Texas Community Newspapers Association, Inc.
- Texas Publishers Association

Black Arts & Collectible Gifts

INTRODUCING



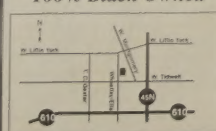
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We Must Understand Credibility precludes compromise

African American News & Issues has tirelessly explained why our people's biggest problem is an inability to separate business from personal b.s., but apparently the Willie Lynch indoctrination is alive, well and thriving in the psyches of the children of slavery, insofar as Black folks simply can't get it together.

I must be careful to not fall into the personal b.s. trap myself, because I'm still mad as hell and don't intend to take it anymore, when it comes to having my people disrespected, anytime, anywhere, by anybody. I speak of NAACP president Howard Jefferson ejecting Roger Jackson, AAN&I's chief photographer, who had been sent to cover a public meeting being held to discuss the downtown arena issue. Unfortunately, the line between personal b.s. and real business is so thin, until it becomes like the so-called "race card." As you know, the politically correct answer (to justify, or rationalize allowing personal b.s. to impact business negatively) is: "We're just doing our job." Therefore, for the sake of clarification, we should qualify the fact the AAN&I is a legitimate member of Houston's media. Our representatives are fully accredited, card signs by HPD's chief and DPD's director) carrying members of the working press. And, inasmuch as Jackson was on assignment, he was due all the respect and accommodation that all other media are afforded at an open (to the public) meeting.

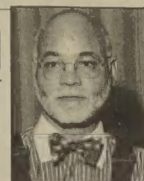
Perhaps, none of that mattered to Mr. Jefferson, who we admittedly alluded to as a "fool" in an editorial. If Mr. Jefferson was simply taking care of NAACP business, when he rebuffed our photographer at a public meeting—we apologize. We however,

must question his belief that it was okay to not allow a newspaper (that had affronted him personally), to take photos while "his" NAACP took care of business.

That scenario—in a nutshell—is what happened, so, at that, we'll leave it up to you (readers) to determine if we're mixing newspaper business with personal b.s., while at the same time we explain the function of an uncompromised newspaper, that is considered the cornerstone of a democracy whose constitution assures freedom of speech and a free press. It is not just our business to print all of the news—without fear or favor—but our obligation, if we are truly to be watchman on the wall for over 2.5 million Black Texans, as well as untold millions residing in South Central U.S. and accessing our exciting web page (www.blacknewsonline.com), on the Internet.

As we explained in the past, it's not our obligation, or intention to be a "feel good" newsletter for African American intelligentsia. For your edification, or future reference let it be known African American News & Issues was created (in February of 1996, by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Douglas Malonson, founders and CEO of Malonson Company, et al), with the expressed mission to become Texas' widest circulated newspaper with a Black perspective. We might add, we also have a mission to bring integrity and credibility to a beleaguered Black media, so it will survive well into the next millennium.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION plans are on the drawing board to more effectively identify businesses and people who fail to work in the best interest of African Americans.



Roy Douglas Malonson

Y2K bugs aside, a true Black newspaper with a Black perspective—will not only be necessary in the twenty-first century, but also crucial to the progress of Africans in America. On the other hand, unless Black newspapers are objective and/or credible, "they ain't worth a damn" and hurt more than help Black people. You can be sure, as long as blood runs warm in my veins, AAN&I not only is here to stay, but will never, ever be compromised—by fear or favor.

It just won't work. City Councilman Carroll Robinson is a good example of where we're coming from. After being offended—by an inference that he was "vying for the coveted Clarence Thomas Award," by voting with conservatives, i.e., R-7—he wanted a sit down "clear the air" talk. He wanted us to understand why he voted as he did. We certainly didn't mind chatting with him as private citizens, or a community leader, but as a publisher we had nothing to discuss. He voted as he voted and we reported it and suggested—from a Black perspective how our readers viewed his vote. To Robinson's credit, he not only thought we were fair, but also has become a very cooperative,

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POLITICAL CAPITOL

They are calling it A2K, Austin2K. But they might as well call it WA2K—White Austin 2K. As it now stands, Austin of the New Millennium will be like Austin of the Old Millennium—segregated.

Recently, Austin mayor Kirk Watson called a press conference on the balcony of the Stephen F. Austin hotel to announce details of Austin's official New Year's Eve Party on E. Sixth St. Details on sponsors and ticket costs are sketchy at this time but the entertainment lineup is virtually all white. The exception is Austin blues artist W.C. Clark. Clark is an excellent choice but African-American music enthusiasts deserve to have a nationally known Black artist join Lyle Lovett in the lineup.

And, I hope I am not speaking out of school, but I seriously doubt W.C. and Lyle will be paid at the same rate for their performances...

And, once again, correct me if I am wrong, but there are other forms of black music that might appeal to Austinites. (I won't even go into try-

WA2K bug is a repeat of the past

Phillip Martin

ing to provide something for the under-50 black Austinite, because its obvious their participation is unwanted! This whole celebration is fraught with irony.

First, Mayor Watson makes his announcement at a hotel named after a slaveholder. (Look it up.) Then, the site for this celebration is E. Sixth Street, the site of a booming black

business district at the turn of the century. (Look it up yet again.)

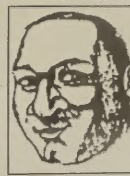
Today, the area has only two known black businesses: Brian Joseph's art gallery and the just-relocated Empanada Parlour. Additionally, many Sixth Street establishments make it clear they are not thrilled with black customers. So, add a virtually all-white entertainment lineup and Watson is assured that no self-respecting black folks will rain on his end of the year parade.

This is so Austin. So far, there has-

Rather than ticket and sponsorship proceeds going to cover someone's plane fare from Hollywood, a scholarship fund could be started. African-Americans in Austin should show they are not willing to enter the New Millennium in the same way they entered the previous one—enslaved.

Bud's Eyeview

Lest we raise pickaninnies for da' plantation



Bud Johnson

of Black Journalist is you saying old warrior? Hey, what I'm saying is, not only don't our best and brightest future journalist—the life blood of our media—resist OJT in the Black media, but NABJ's stated objective is to prepare young, African American journalist, to work in the mainstream media. So what? If the truth be told, all of our colleges and universities—organizations, institutions, politicians and parents, for that matter have a prime objective to prepare our best and brightest to be successful in the best corporate America has to offer. Hell, would you want your brilliant child to intern at the corner gas station, or Exxon?

Is it our kid's fault that the pinnacle of success has been defined as making it in main stream America? We can't have it both ways. Either we want our children to be the best they can be—in spite of the best being controlled by a status quo, "Good Old Boy." Republican, system—or, settle for mediocrity. More so, if they have to make some compromises to be the best they can be, so be it. In fact, there isn't much difference from a star athlete being drafted by an established NFL, or Super Bowl contender, as opposed to an expansion franchise. Hell, I'm sure you wouldn't hold it against a Harvard grad (like Sylvester, or a

law professor, like Carroll), if they aspired to be president of these... here... United States of America? Ain't that what the American dream is all about? Perish the thought I'm casting dispersions on African American intelligentsia, for wanting the best of our young people, because that's not where I'm coming from. In spite of my empty pockets and persona non-gratis status (in mainstream America), I fully understand what time it is. You must remember, I have a son who became the youngest, Black bank vice president in Houston's history—going all the way from the mailroom at Charter Bank (now Bank of America), as a 16-year-old Eisenhower Distributor Education student, to VP in 10-years—acting on my fatherly advice.

Furthermore, I can well understand why slaves would be proud when their children were chosen for the big house (on the plantations), even if they understood that sometimes the best, brightest and most beautiful kid's were going to be well, let's just say Black folks ain't a coat of many colors by accident. On the other hand, it kinda worries me that here we are (moonwalking, in 1999 America—after 139-years of freedom—still, proudly raising pick-

n't been much of an outcry from African Americans in Austin. Perhaps they are too busy renting their formals and tuxedos so they can go to the all-White Watson soiree.

African Americans should be urging folks to boycott the mayor's party and planning one of their own.

The new Millennium Entertainment Center in black East Austin could be the site of a family gathering. The center has a skating rink, movie theatre and bowling alley. There are certainly enough black performers to pack a house. In order to attract youth, the stage would need to be shared by blues and jazz artists and rap artists. And let's not forget some gospel music.

Rather than ticket and sponsorship proceeds going to cover someone's plane fare from Hollywood, a scholarship fund could be started.

African Americans in Austin should show they are not willing to enter the New Millennium in the same way they entered the previous one—enslaved.

anninies for a system in control of our destiny.

If I've hurt your feelings I'm sorry. But, lest you're totally in denial, you have to be fully aware of how proud we are when one of our own does a Jackie Robinson. Yeah? I know? We're made considerable progress since Jackie showed the White folks we can play the game as good, or even gooder than they can, weebit. I have a problem understanding why I'm not respected (by my folks in the 'hood), as much as Black folks in White media's places. I won't even tell you how many times I've had to explain why I—with my obvious talent and charm—wasted my life working exclusively in the Black media. It's taken for granted something was wrong with me, or I, mayhap, simply didn't have enough talent, or sophistication, to work in the mainstream media. "Hello Lloyd C. A. Wells, a.k.a da' Judge." And, as quiet as it's kept, success—in any and every field germane to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—is predicated upon how well we negotiate mainstream America. The hell you say? I know Black parents aren't still proud when their children are attractive, or desirable enough to date, not to mention marry White folks??? Ah come on warrior, you're getting petty now. You know people can't control whom they love. Yeah. I know, just like Francis Bacon said, "It is impossible to love and be wise," so ain't no use trying to fault Black folks for loving people who despitefully use and abuse them. Hell, God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son, so why is it surprising that we (Black folks), mere humans love White folks so, we give them the best and brightest of our children?

Painful truth notwithstanding, we can't deny Black folks are, indeed, still raising pickaninnies for massa.

What's Up BLACK TEXAS?

Community Events
Neighborhood News
Family Landmarks

Continued from page 1

in moving expenses and a discretionary miscellaneous expense fund of \$4,800. Thomas was given a five year contract. He assumed his duties July 1, 1996.

When Thomas accepted the job in Beaumont, he was well-aware of the various problems that BISD had from a decline in academics to discord among board members. The district was plagued with troubles and was badly in need of turning around. Student ratings on tests made BISD ne of the lowest performing districts in the state. However, according to districts reports now, it is now ranked among top districts in the State of Texas for improving student performance.

Many changes have taken place, under his leadership. He designed a new Student Assignment Plan, one that ended years of turmoil by some citizens over integration in Beaumont. A number of community organizations have accepted this plan including: the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Beaumont Branch of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP). BISD reports that enrollment is growing at five percent per year and discipline problems are on the decline. Also,

Golden Triangle

By Vivian Brooks-Tizeno

Prior to coming to BISD, Dr. Thomas was Superintendent of North Forest ISD in Houston, where he received recognition as an outstanding educator and leader.



Beaumont Superintendent Dr. Carrol A. Thomas is Winner of "Superintendent of the Year Award"

student achievement is highly rated among other accomplishments.

Ozen high school, named for the late Hebert High School Coach

Clifton Ozen, has a magnet program. Prior to being renamed as the third high school, it was the ninth grade campus for West Brook High

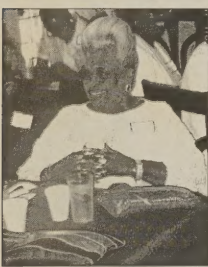
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Black Houston's Perspectives

THINK'N OUT LOUD0- There's a lot of confusion about ex-felon's voting rights, that Rep. Harold Dutton's HB 1001 clarified during the 75th Legislature, weebit Texas' mainstream media doesn't seem inclined to elaborate on it. *African American News & Issues* was approached too late to edify our readers (before the Nov. 2nd election), but, in future editions we will explain the bill voted into law Sept. 1, 1997. The upcoming March primaries will greatly affect state district judges and surely ex-felons should want to be eligible to take a shot at them. Don't neglect to pick up a free (weekly) copy of the only newspaper with a totally Black perspective, widely distributed in your neighborhood weekly and visit our Web page at www.blacknewsonline.com, for your continuous edification.

GOOD NEIGHBOR—When, or wherever there's a church program, don't be surprised to see *Sis. Laura Chandler*, who is the kind of Good Neighbor described in the bible. *Sis. Chandler*, in fact, supports all worthwhile programs in her Fifth Ward community and deserves flowers while she can still smell.

SMALL WORLD-George Neely's obituary certainly rung a bell among Fifth Warders reading about his Oct. 25th homegoing service and many immediately thought of a Wheatley quarter-back, circa late forties, but it was his father.



• Sis. Laura Chandler

MILESTONES—Family and love ones celebrated George Neely Sr.'s long and fruitful life in song and words of praise from Bros. Bencil Smith, Robert Adams, Wardell Pilegm, Andrew Washington, John Kelly, Charles Ashley, Russell Williams, John Tillman and Thomas Foster, who delivered the eulogy. Bro. Neely, who was born on Feb. 10, 1911 in Palestine, TX. -- to Andrew & Celanie Neely--married Cassie Lee Thomas and was the father 15 children (a son, Chester & daughter, Severia Douglas preceded him death), forty grandchildren, forty-five great grandchildren and 14 great-great grandchildren, who he left to cherish his memories with his daughters: Faye Goods (husband Clinton), Alice Williams; Cellanie Jackson, Jacqueline Robinson, Barbara Palmer (husband Robert); & Beverly Harper; sons: George Jr., Phillip, Michael (wife Betty), Edgar, Arthur, Marold and Floyd. Pallbearers were: Derrick Robinson, Richard Williams, Eric Jackson, Phillip Neely, Errol Palmer, Peter Goods, and Terrance Neely &

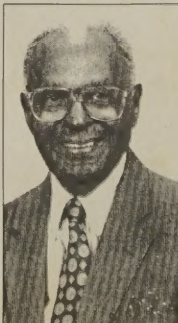


• WILLIE HATCHETT, left (expired Oct 26th) shown with Bud Johnson.

Michael Jackson. Well done, Bro. Neely.... A clarion call is out for Wheateley's class of 1950, to organize Reunion 2000. For info call *Marie Blanton* at (713) 864-2737, or *Theresa Hilliard Robinson* (713) 676-0131.... The Annual Missions & Brotherhood Day, Oct. 24th, was preceded by a well-blessed Prayer Breakfast, which featured the young gospel-recording divas, SOTE and a powerful message from Rev. Ross Cullins, Pastor of Solid Rock B.C. *Sis. Kathy Payton* was Mistress of Ceremony of the spirit filled program that included solos by *Bro. Harold Routt* and *Althea Johnson*. Congregational songs led by *Joyce Adams* added to the event's success, along with: *Sis. Gertrude McCowan* (Welcome), *Bro. Sam Johnson* (Prayer) and *Bro. Grover Smith* (Scripture), *Sis. Patricia Elmore* (Meditation), *Bro. William Tatman* (Alter prayer); remarks of praise were rendered by *Sis. Alberta Martin*, General Mission President; *Sis. MayArtha Cowling*, Mission II President and Rev. *Harvey Clemons Jr.*, Pastor of Pleasant Hill B. C., which was further blessed the following Sunday with a thought provoking sermon from Rev. *Kenneth Campbell*, Pastor of Mt. Zion B.C. and highlighted by *Victoria Easy's* Candlelight Tribute to past Mission Saints: *Sisters Quiesma Mack*, *Jennie Nora Maxie*, *Beulah McGowan*, *Nellie Smith & Rachel Thompson* and a stirring solo by *Jacklyn McClellan's*. Also on the Sunday evening program were Rev. *Samuel Parker* (Scripture), Rev. *Isaac Mahoney* (Prayer), and *Sis. Beverly Martin* (Occasion). The hard working committees co-chaired by *Sis. Virginia Brock* and *Bro. Craig Wilson*, included: *Sisters MayArtha Cowling*, *Oretha Ellis*, *Alberta Martin*, *Cyn-*

thia Hendricks and *Beverly Martin* & *Bro. Richard Jackson* (Program); *Sis. Brock*, *Janita Chavis*, *Martha Elariss*, *Locadia Hooks*, *Paula Waiters* & *Bessie Wills* (Registration); *Sis. Hendricks*, *Portia Hughes* & *Sis. Joycelyn Wyatt*, *Bro. Jackson* & *Bud Johnson* (Publicity); *Sis. Angella Jones Lou Von*, *Naomi Eagleton*, *Audrey Simmons*, *Francis Smith*, *Antoinette Polk* & *Jacqueline Eubhard* (Hosts); *Sis. Benlah Evans*, *Bro. Joe Washington* & *Paul Moore* (Finance); *Sis. Vicky Easy*, *Tammy Castille*, *Shirley Smith*, *JoAnn Murphy*, & *Bro. Grover Smith* (Serving). Pleasant Hill's next major event is Thanksgiving Morning Services, Nov. 25 and the public is invited. For info call (713) 224-0052.

IN THE HOOD-A get well card for retired P.O. ex., *James Paul Matthews*, who is sure to get several from the vast collection of religious, Afrocentric collection at Shirley Ann Gift Shop, 6130 Wheatley, where you run into people like *Helen Wright*, *Jackie Armstrong*, *Madeleine Saunders*, *Sam Allen* and *Roland Jack*. For info call (713) 692-1195.... The untimely (Oct. 26) death of *Willie Hatchett* really shook the family and long time friends like *Bud Johnson*, who considered him a best pal, who always had his back. *Willie*, a retired Special Forces Sergeant and the brother of *Acres Home* civic leader *Thelma Hatchett* Lastrap ran for Houston's City Council twice and succeeded *George Gray* as president of the GCCSA. The celebration of Sgt. Hatchett's full and productive life will be featured in next week's edition. Houston area hotshots, who still desire to play, should be interested in the Sugar Land Sharks of the newly created Southwest Basketball League. For info call (713) 850-4500.



• George Neely's



• Sis. Alberta Martin, Sis. MayArtha Cowling,

School and before that, it was first named Hebert High School in honor of the Hebert Brothers who gave the land for the first school.

Through the use of creative arrangements, BISD was able to purchase more than five million dollars worth of furniture and equipment without requiring a tax rate increase. All these changes and many others have been attributed to the successful leadership of Dr. Thomas.

Prior to coming to BISD, Dr. Thomas was Superintendent of North Forest ISD in Houston, where he received recognition as an outstanding educator and leader. While there, he was named "Superintendent of the Year" for Region 4, and his school district moved from "Accredited Warned," the lowest level the state places on a district, to "Fully Accredited" in one year.

He earned a bachelor's degree at Texas A&I University, a master of education at Texas Tech University and his doctorate in education at Texas Southern University. He is pursuing his post doctoral studies at Lamar University. He is married to Linda, principal of Pletasch-MacArthur Elementary School in BISD, and has two daughters, Carol Lynn and Gracie Elizabeth. Carol attends Prairie View A&M University and Gracie is a sophomore at the University of Texas in Austin.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of interviewing many breast cancer survivors. While I have heard varying tales of the many issues that are faced, Dr. Claudette Copeland really put things into perspective for me. There's nothing glamorous or exciting about breast cancer. The pain and suffering that Dr. Copeland described is unimaginable and my respect for survivors has increased immensely.

I can't say enough about the Celebrating Life Foundation's Sylvia Dunnivant. She works tirelessly to raise the level of consciousness regarding breast cancer and African Americans. If you want more information about the foundation, or how you can help the cause, give Sylvia a call at 1.800.207.0992.

On October 30, 1999, the CMP-CCO Foundation and the Dallas Public School's Career Advisory Committee will hold the Second Annual Career Exposure Forum for all 8th-12th grade students. The event, which has been enthusiastically endorsed by new Superintendent Dr. Waldemar (Bill) Rojas, will take place at the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Career Exposure Forum is to expose students to the wide variety of career paths open to them. It is expected that the Forum will be supported by professional volunteers representing over 200 professions, including the fields of accounting, advertising, architecture, banking, computers, engineering, law enforcement, firefighting, human resources, legal, management, marketing, media, medicine, nursing, social work, teaching, telecommunications, and many others. Having so many professions under the same roof makes this Career Exposure Forum the most comprehensive career fair of its kind. The CAAPCO Foundation is a Coalition of Professional and Community Organizations. The Forum Committee expects over 1,000 high school students, representing all schools throughout the District, to attend the Career Fair. There is no cost to attend.

Kudos to Fahim Minkah and the Black United Front of Dallas. Minkah, president of the Black United Front along with Dallas Public Schools Trustee Se-Gwen Tyler toured the newly-built Southern Skates Roller Rink, which is a project of the organization. Built on over two acres of land, the grand opening will be held soon. The rink is located at 2939 Ledbetter.

There are young people more involved than many of us older folks. Congratulations to Jerron R. Hogg. The second grader at Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School recently received the Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Community Service Award.

Gladys Knight will perform at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center at 7 p.m. For tickets, call 214.528-5576. Don't forget to get your tickets for the celebration of Joyce Ann Brown's release from prison. Comedians Dick Gregory and Phyllis Yvonne Stickney will host the gala event. Call 214.821.8810.

Wedding Belles-Gwendolyn L. Selson and Darryl S. Duffie were married at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church on October 2. She is the daughter of Minnie Reed Greer. He is the son of Gracie Bradley Duffie and

Acres Home Citizens Chamber of Commerce's Monthly Small Business Development Workshop

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 1999, 6-9 p.m.

Location: Acres Home Chamber/Carver Center 2330 S. Victory Dr.

Description: Technology at Your Fingertips: Using the Internet Are you a small business owner struggling to determine what is on the Internet and the World Wide Web for you? Technology at Your Fingertips is for you, then! This seminar covers the Internet basics for small businesses, including how to investigate patents, locate trademarks and conduct market research, as well as access to locations for small business information from the Texas Department of Economic Development, government contract opportunities, and regional economic information. This seminar is geared towards all levels of computer users, novice to expert. For registration call 713-692-7003.

Course Fee: \$20.00
Instructor: Helena Vonville

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METROPLEX

Cheryl Smith



the late Andrew Duffie, Jr., Angela Wyatt and Undrae Knox were married at St. Joseph Baptist Church. She is the daughter of Ella Fuller-Wyatt and J.D. Cooper. He is the son of Lawrence Knox and Larry Knox. October 8 was the day and the DeSoto Civic Center was the site of the nuptials for Missie Caprice Reeves and Earl Ramon Hawkins. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Reeves and he is the son of Earl Hawkins and Mary Williams... Robin Taylor and Robert Turner III were married at Faith Family Fellowship at October 9. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Taylor, Jr., and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner, Jr. Shermetra Davis and Derrick Irving were married on October 9 at Grand Prairie's Faith Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

Congratulations to the Mr. and Mrs. James E. Sanford. On September 27, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He is the owner of Sanford Pest Control Company and Mrs. Willie Jaye Sanford is a retired medical technologist.

Condolences to the family of Mrs. Doris Bacus McMath. Services were held recently at the Cliff View Church of Christ. Born to Jasper Bacus, Sr. and Edna Nixon Bacus, she received a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee, a Master of Education degree and Honorary Doctorate Degree from Southern Methodist University. A longtime educator, she was born in Dallas...Lee Andrew Allen was remembered in services on October 11 at Golden Gate Funeral Home...Annie Mae Holyfield, of Henderson, was remembered in services at Peoples Missionary Baptist

Church...Laura Louise Sims was remembered in services at Golden Gate Funeral Home...Donald Wayne Green was remembered in services at Golden Gate Funeral Home...Doris Jean Cooper was remembered in services at South Oak Cliff Baptist Church...Rev. Richard Anderson, 87, was remembered in services at J.L. Brooks Memorial Chapel in Terrell. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Malissa S. Anderson...Willie Mae Bryant of Terrell, was remembered in services at Mount Olive Baptist Church. Married to the late Herman Bryant, the couple had four children, 21 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and eight great grandchildren...Dorothy Cook of Pittsburg was remembered in services at Center Point Baptist Church...Constance Harford was remembered in services at Golden Gate Funeral Home...Julia Black was remembered in services at First Full Gospel Pentecostal Church...Tommy Joe Cox was remembered in services at Smith Chapel AME Church...Earline Marie Jones Gray, a graduate of Bishop College and the University of North Texas was remembered in services at Good Street Baptist Church. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Phi Delta Kappa, Jack and Jill of America, and Two Ladies of Distinction...Emma Jean Haynes was remembered in services at Greater New Zion Baptist Church...Janie Johnson was remembered in services at Dallas West Church of Christ...Andrew Mitchell was remembered in services at Antioch Baptist Church...Get your tickets early! Iyanla Vanzant will be appearing in Houston on November 9 and Dallas on November 12. Call 1.800.775.SHOWER to reserve your tickets.

My beautiful African sisters. Yes, I am talking to you! Join ESSENCE magazine and Wilhelmina Models in the search for the face of the new millennium. There's a model call on October 18 and the ESSENCE Mail Show on October 25 at Irving Mall. For more information, call 972.255.0571.

On Saturday, October 16, Africans and African Americans for Enslavement Reparation, a coalition of human rights and African liberation organizations, organized a number of events to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Million Man March. They presented a series of discussions on Affirmative Action or Reparations at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters. The panel was moderated by Justice of the Peace, Thomas Jones and panel members were: Founding member of NCOBRA and chair of the Prairie View A&M Political Science Department Dr. Imani Obadele, WBAP talk show host and Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Mark Davis, attorney Donya Witherspoon, Black Economic Times publisher Chevis King, Southwest Diversity Group president Calvin Hall.

For more information, call 214.426.1683.

Until next time, let your actions speak louder than your words. Please!

Entertainment

Introducing

L.H. Simpson Ensemble

By Bud Johnson
African-American News & Issues

Although visually and musically one might be tempted to refer to the group of beautiful and spirit-filled sisters directed by Sis. Andrea Hoxie, as Divine Divas, they are formally introduced as the L. H. Simpson Ensemble.

Although the name, when preceded by Rev. or "Doc," is readily recognized by older saints with fond memories of the dynamic Fifth Ward minister, who founded and led Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, (1510 Pannell), from 1925 until his death in 1967, perhaps a mini-history lesson would be apropos for younger worshippers in Black Houston.

Rev. L. H. Simpson, perhaps, best known for organizing Houston's Black preachers (founded Colored Baptist Minister's Alliance), to be a powerful political force—he also was the first Black Houstonian to seek a political office (City Council) citywide. Rev. Simpson also is remembered for economic

empowerment of his community—building affordable homes; creating a credit union, a food pantry and old people's home—long before federal redevelopment programs became a reality. Ironically, Rev. Harvey Clemons Jr., who bestowed the legendary founder and pastor's name on Sis. Hoxie's Divine Divas, is following in Rev. Simpson's footsteps so effectively until he was recently chosen among the '15 Divine Deliverers of Houston."

In fact, the L.H. Simpson Ensemble was born out of necessity, inasmuch as Rev. Clemons is in great demand as a guest pastor and often had need of a group of inspirational singers who could be mobilized by a cell phone call. Enter Sis. Hoxie, the daughter of Sis. Lillian Hoxie Mitchell (one of gospel radio's legends, Bro. George Nelson's, favorite people), an innovative musical genius, who sang with such a group (as a child) and had plenty of talent to work with as Pleasant Hill's music director. Once you meet Andrea, a multi-talented entrepreneur, you'll realize why the group has become a so popular within a year, insofar as she can't abide half-stepping.

And, you can be blessed assured,

there's nothing half-stepping about the L.H. Simpson Ensemble, featuring DeVon Cox, a former Jack Yates track star, who works in corporate Houston; Dawn Ellis, a former Miss Texas College, who teaches in HISD; Eleanor Jones,

executive director of Pleasant Hill Village; Joycelyn Wyatt, executive secretary of Pleasant Hill B.C. and golden-voiced Vickie Easy, a housewife, who has her hands full raising two rambunctious boys. "We started something," Rev. Clemons quipped. "I just needed an added attraction to travel with me, but now the only reason I get invited to preach, is because I bring them with me." That tongue-in-cheek assessment might not be too far from truth, inasmuch as each of the six divas not only looks good (in her color coordinated ensemble), but also is divinely gifted enough musically to perform solo. Under the astute direction of Sis. Hoxie, six voices are uniquely blended into a sound that makes you want to jump and shout, or bless your soul. You can be sure: Rev. L.H. Simpson would be well pleased with his namesake and the way they sing praises to the Lord. (A Bud Johnson's Ideas Inc. feature.)



THE L.H. SIMPSON ENSEMBLE: Standing Sis. DeVon Cox and Pleasant Hill's music director, Andrea Hoxie (right). Seated: Dawn Ellis, Vickie Easy, Eleanor Jones and Joycelyn Wyatt.

ISSUES

No one thought it would be possible. But there he was, Mark Davis, WBAP-AM 820 radio talk show host, who is white, saying the words, "I believe Black Americans should fight for slavery reparations." Members at a forum on "Affirmative Action or Reparations" held Saturday, October 16th at the Black Academy of Arts & Letters in Dallas Texas, sat for a moment in shock at the announcement. After the shock wore off, there was thunderous applause at Davis' words. It was like the entire Dallas Convention Center building was rocking. Participants listened intently to every word each panelist had to impart on the subject. Mr. Davis' words came after nearly five hours of debates, discussions and yes even down right heated arguments on whether or not African Americans should continue to fight for affirmative action programs or join the ever increasing community calls for enslavement reparations. At times the love took on the atmosphere of a love fest and sometimes one got the feeling that they were in a war zone, but through it all there was mutual respect for everyone's opinions. Davis was well respected among highly visible Republican conservatives like Governor George W. Bush, Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson as well as U.S. Congressmen Dick Armey of Irving Texas and Tom Delay of Sugar Land Texas. Davis is a columnist with the Fort Worth Star Telegram and is heard on 125 radio stations in cities across America. He comes on an hour before conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh and is a frequent guest on local and national television programs like MSNBC. Judge Thomas G. Jones, Justice of the Peace District 7 moderated the forum. Other panelists who presented at this historical forum were Attorney Donya Witherspoon. Ms. Witherspoon, a very popular white female civil rights attorney, has represented some of Black Dallas' most high profile clients like Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, New Black Panther Party and many members of the Texas Peace Officers Association (TPOA). The TPOA represents most black Dallas police officers one of which is Terrell Bolton Dallas' new and first African American Chief of Police. Also among the panellists was Chevis King a black conservative newspaper publisher. Mr. King is also a radio talk show host and publishes the Black Economic Times. Representing the reparations movement point of view was Dr. Imani Obadele a professor at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. Dr. Obadele is a founding board member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA). NCOBRA has been leading the reparations

Enslavement Reparations movement gaining momentum

Reparations: The act of making amends, atonement—that which is done by way of amends, of satisfaction to an individual, people or a nation.

tions fight for over ten years. Some of its coalition members are the NAACP, SCLC, the ACLU, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Nation of Islam, the Congressional Black Caucus, the California State Democratic Party, the International Association of Black Firefighters, Million Man March, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and many others. There were also as many anti-affirmative action opponents among the predominantly African American participants at the forum, as there were supporters. Some felt affirmative action initiatives had become a wasted exercise. And that a new initiative should be tried that can truly help Black people in America whose ancestors had been historically harmed by America's racist system.

A number of participants said they believe affirmative action has become too weak to address blacks because of its minority label.

It was pointed out that because affirmative action has been termed a program for "minority set-asides" it could no longer help blacks as it was first intended to do. But, a large majority of attendees, blacks as well as whites did support the study of reparations for blacks. This study is what Congressional Bill, H.R. 40, as sponsored by Michigan Congressman John Conyers, Jr., calls on the U.S. government to do.

The bill calls on congress to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery, in the United States and the 13 colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans. And the impact of these forces on living African Americans. To make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies and for other purposes.

Congressman Conyers introduced H.R. 40 in remembrance of the historic 19th century congressional vote providing freed families with forty acres and a mule. President Andrew Johnson disgracefully vetoed the vote. The bill is

By Thomas Muhammad

also patterned after a law that led to the Japanese reparations bill that passed Congress in 1987 and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan as the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Based on that Commission's findings, the U.S. Congress formally apologized to Japanese Americans and voted to pay each living Japanese detention camp survivor \$20,000 each for hardship the internment may have caused them; it established a \$1.5 billion trust fund to be used to educate Americans about the suffering of the Japanese Americans; and it issued a pardon for all those who resisted detention camps.

Similarly, House Bill H.R. 40 would create the first federally chartered commission to study the impact of slavery on African Americans and the nation, and make recommendations to Congress on methods of redress for harm not only from the institution of slavery but from discrimination continuing through to present. Based upon this fact, Mr. Davis decided that he could support the bill. He's not alone. A poll conducted by NCOBRA, (the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America), found that ninety percent of African Americans polled supported enslavement reparations. That also confirms why nearly all national, state and local African American organizations have passed resolutions declaring that enslavement reparations will be their number one agenda item for the year 2000. These groups include: the National Baptist Convention, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, the Association of Black Psychologists, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, National Conference of Black Political Scientists, National Conference of Black Lawyers.

History of Reparations African Americans: The reparations movement is not a new one. In fact a similar congressional bill much like H.R. 40 was filed on behalf of blacks back in 1867. The bill was found by Dr. Robert Beck, a Washington lawyer, who actually won a default judgement for reparations from the U.S. government in Ashton vs IRS. The bill was entitled H.R. 29 and was introduced by Rep. Thaddeus Stevens



(D-MA). Stevens was the architect of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

Then there was the Freedman's Act passed by Congress on March 3, 1865 which granted land "to every male citizen, whether refugee or freedman, as aforesaid, there shall be assigned not more than forty acres of such land, and the person to whom it was so assigned shall be protected in the use and enjoyment of the land for the term of three years at an annual rent not exceeding six per centum upon the value of such land... At the end of said term, or at any time during said term, the occupants of any parcels so assigned may purchase the land..." This was the famous intended law that would have provided "forty acres and a mule" to blacks who were once slaves. Of course the following month just five days after the Confederacy's surrender, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, his successor, Andrew Johnson, vetoed the amendment in February 1866. The terms were changed so that the commissioner could determine the cost of rent and returning Whites could repossess their Black-occupied land.

Even during the '60s, the reparations movement proved to be alive and well when in 1969, the late James Forman, the executive director of the Student

Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), received national attention when he interrupted Sunday service at New York's Riverside Church to announce his "Black Manifesto" which called for White religious bodies to collectively donate \$500 million for redress to Blacks.

At the Million Man March, held in Washington D.C. in 1995, the late Queen Mother More, known by all as the architect of the modern reparations movement, urged the crowd to push for reparations just as she had been doing since following Marcus Garvey in the 1920s.

Back to Dallas:

The forum capped a week of media and talk show blitzes as well as historical appearance of reparations supporters speaking before the Dallas City Council. Speakers were councilwoman Diane Ragsdale, Commissioner John Wiley Price and local NCOBRA Dallas chapter representative James Rogers, III. The speakers were well received by the full council. Officially the council was Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Posa who graciously thanked the speakers and their many supporters for appearing. Thunderous applause could be heard throughout City Hall after councilman Lipscomb, Chaney and Hill pledged their loyal support. The speakers intelligently asked the council to support Councilman Lipscomb who will bring a resolution that supports congressional Bill H.R. 40. In concluding their remarks the speakers asked the council to understand that what the bill calls for is nothing new and that they were not re-inventing the wheel. They pointed out for the council's review a number of precedents for reparations paid to communities who had been harmed by others. Among reparations supporters in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolis are:

U.S. Congressman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Texas State Senator Royce

West, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Rev. Frederick D. Haynes-III, Judge Thomas G. Jones Justice of the Peace District 7, Former Dallas City Council Woman Diane Ragsdale, Dallas City Councilmen Al Lipscomb, Leo Chaney and Don Hill, Black Economic Times Publisher Chevis King, Judge Maryellen Hicks of Fort Worth, the New Black Panther Party, Lee Alcorn, Jerico, Attorney James Belt, International Model Yahara Gashwork, the Fellowship of African Studies & Religion and more.

A few such precedents are:

•\$1.2 billion paid to Japanese Americans by the United States.

•\$25 million paid to Holocaust Survivors for Jewish claims against Austria.

•\$1 billion + 44 million acres of land paid to Alaska Land Settlement by the United States.

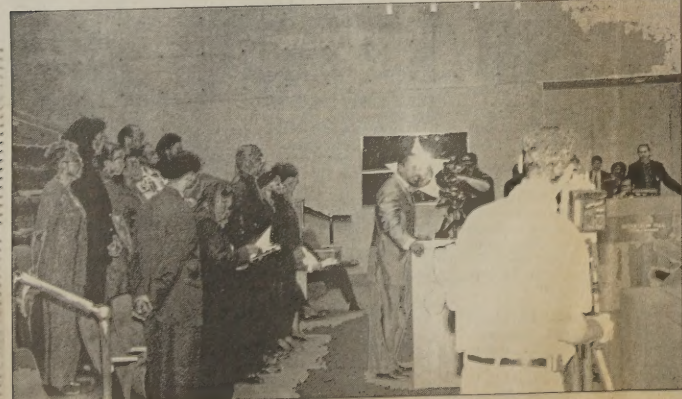
•\$822 million paid to Holocaust Survivors of German Jewish families from the German government.

•\$1.25 billion compensation fund set up by Swiss banks to be paid to Jewish Holocaust Survivors for free slave labor and for use of the Survivor's assets.

•\$57.7 million compensation package approved by the government of Norway to be paid to Jews who lost property, plundered by the Nazis during World War II. With white conservatives like Mark Davis signing on, participants at the forum believe the illusive reparations bill may just see the light of day. They ask that you too support House Bill H.R. 40. If nothing else you don't want to miss out when the checks are being passed out. For more information please call the office of Africans & African Americans for Enslavement Reparations at 972-217-1951 and join the movement or check out www.ncobra.com. Forward ever. Backwards never! Until then the struggle continues...



• Donya Witherspoon, Civil Rights Attorney, and Chevis King, Newspaper Publisher. Photos by Dennis Cotton



• Commissioner John Wiley Price and reparation delegation speaking before Dallas City Council



• Judge Thomas G. Jones and forum participants at Black Academy of Arts & Letters

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Broadcast

KWWI 1360

11:30-12:30 a.m.

Evening Worship 7pm

Wed. Bible Study 7pm

5902 Beall

Houston, TX 77091

713/692-5333

Rev. F.N. Williams Sr.

Greater Zion

Missionary Baptist Church

Church Activities

Sunday School 9am

Morning Worship 10:45am

Broadcast

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KWWI 1

The Non Profit Zone

Help for battered Women and Children

Is it likely that some one might have knowledge of domestic violence or an assault committed against a child and not report the information? You bet it is likely and it occurs hundreds of times a day right here in our own community. But what would prompt a person to witness such acts of violence committed against a woman and/or her children and not take action? And why do the victims of sexual assault and family violence often fail to report the brutality or leave the situation?

The most significant reason for family members, friends or neighbors not reporting domestic violence and sexual abuse is because family violence is still considered a "personal" matter that should be dealt with by the immediate family. Other reasons that I can guess at might be that people may not know how to

report the incident because of the inter-relational nature of the incident. Some may not try to stop the violence because they don't want to appear nosy, or they might feel that the woman is there by choice and could just leave if she wanted to stop the abuse. None of these are very good excuses for not taking action to help a woman or child when they are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. The bottom-line is that acts of aggression (physical abuse, attacks, beatings, sexual assault) committed against another or wrong - both morally and legally and therefore we all have an ethical and legal obligation to help stop family violence if we know about it.

What of the victims of the battering and abuse - why might they not report the fact that a husband, father, relative or boyfriend is attacking or sexually assaulting them or the children? The answer to this question is complicated but the simplest reasons might be fear of injury or death, isolation, lack of resources to escape, threatening behavior by the perpetrator or fear of losing children.

The Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) is an organization that has many of the answers and good solutions to help victims of domestic violence and the community deal with this problem. When asked why women don't leave violent situations HAWC prefers not to blame the victim and instead ask, "Why does he abuse her?" The Houston Area Women's Center works to educate and inform the community about family violence and sexual assault in an effort to prevent and eliminate the acts of brutality. The organization provides shelter, support and advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, their friends and families.

Two hotlines are provided by HAWC to serve as the channels for shelter and services for women and children in domestic violence and sexual assault situations. Additional-

The domestic violence hotline (713/528-2121) received approximately 35,000 calls in 1998, while the sexual assault hotline (713/528-RAPE) received approximately 5,000 calls.

ly, these hotlines welcome calls from those who simply need a listening ear and a chance to talk about a tough situation.

The domestic violence hotline (713/528-2121) received approximately 35,000 calls in 1998, while the sexual assault hotline (713/528-RAPE) received approximately 5,000 calls. Of the calls from the hotline more than 1,000 women and children spent time at a shelter.

Homelessness is an issue for many victims of domestic abuse and HAWC helps its clients work with apartment managers or landlords regarding eviction and broken leases. Through the Homeless prevention program HAWC will determine the need for help and assist with a security deposit, first month's rent and first month's utilities.

All clients of HAWC go through intake with a counselor. After that session the person is eligible for individual and group counseling. Children's counseling is also available for those between the ages of 5 and 18. Childcare for children under age 5 is provided while mothers attend counseling sessions. Other counseling services include peer support and group counseling for female and male survivors of sexual assault and incest, their friends and family members, persons with disabilities, adolescents and their parents. Children (ages 6-12) who are sexually assaulted outside the family may also receive counseling.

Legal advocates at HAWC educate and inform clients of their rights and options. The most frequent legal problems that domestic abuse victims encounter include divorce, custody, immigration, criminal law, protective orders and child support. HAWC will help clients work with prosecutors, police officers, and private attorneys and in most cases ac-



By Lauri Andress

company clients to court.

What I particularly want to emphasize is the Community Education program (713/ 5286798) offered by HAWC. public education followed by public action is the best, long term strategy to fight abuse. It is through these kind of efforts that we can learn about the conflicting, complicated patterns that facilitate domestic violence and find out how to take action to prevent and stop the abuse.

HAWC coordinates the following community education services: training programs for law enforcement, educational institutions, medical and legal professionals; a speakers bureau of trained volun-

teers available to speak to organizations throughout Houston; outreach programs to area schools to educate youth about preventing teen dating violence; brochures and educational materials in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese; and a library with resource materials on the prevention of violence against women.

HAWC's web page (www.hawc.org) has a history of abuse against women through the ages. It is interesting to read. Disturbingly, the timeline makes it abundantly clear how society has explicitly (in the past) and implicitly (today) turned a blind eye towards domestic violence. The webpage indicates the following facts. Under English common law the rules of marriage, 500 years ago, stated, "When you see your wife commit an offense, don't rush at her with insults and violent blows. Scold her sharply, bully, and terrify her. And if that still doesn't work, pick up a stick and beat her soundly, for it is better to punish the body and correct the soul. It is better to beat her not in rage, but out of charity for her soul."

The HAWC history goes on to report how violence against women became part of the American tradi-

tion when most of the original colonies adopted much of English law. In 1824 a Mississippi court affirmed a husband's right to chastise his wife. In 1874 the Supreme Court of North Carolina rescinded a husband's right to chastise his wife "under any circumstances," but indicated that no punishment should be given to the husband if assault should occur. Not until the 20th century, did conditions begin to change, especially with the rise of the women's suffrage movement and later the women's liberation movement. In 1833 the first state outlawed wife beating.

COLUMN SUBMISSIONS

This is a weekly column. All submissions must be in by Monday at 5 PM for the issue that will appear the next week. All announcements from a non-profit must have a name and telephone number. Information should be faxed to my attention at 713 692-1183 or mailed to African-American News & Issues 6130 Wheatley Houston, Texas 77091. Pictures are welcome, but please do not send irreplaceable photos. Unless the group is large, please identify all individuals in a photo. I look forward to hearing from you!

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